

Message Text

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TO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222991

FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT HONG KONG 10886 R 170400Z SEP 75

ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK MANILA PARIS CINCPAC 17 SEP 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10886

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MOPS VS

SUBJECT: ESCAPE FROM DANANG

1. DURING THE LATE HOURS OF SEPT. 8, THE HONG KONG MARINE POLICE INTERCEPTED A SMALL MOTORIZED FISHING JUNK ATTEMPTING TO ENTER THE HONG KONG HARBOR OF ABERDEEN. THE VESSEL WAS CARRYING 19 VIETNAMESE CITIZENS, NINE CHILDREN AND TEN ADULTS WHO HAD FLED DANANG ON SEPT. 3. THE ESCAPEES, WHO ARE ALL ETHNIC CHINESE, HAD ORGANIZED IN CHOLON. THE THIRTY-ONE YEAR OLD LEADER OF THE GROUP, WHO FLED WITH HIS SIX YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, CLAIMS TO HAVE WORKED FOR US SPECIAL FORCES UNTIL THE CEASEFIRE. HE HOPES TO JOIN HIS WIFE WHO WAS AIRLIFTED OUT BEFORE THE FALL OF SAIGON. (SEE HK 10843) THE FOLLOWING ARE HIS COMMENTS ON THE ESCAPE AND ON CONDI-
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TIONS IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

2. THE ESCAPE: FOLLOWING THE FALL OF SAIGON TO THE COMMUNISTS, SOURCE ATTEMPTED TO BUY A BOAT IN BOTH SAIGON AND VUNG TAU BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. ON AUG. 17 HE

DEPARTED WITH HIS DAUGHTER BY BUS TO DANANG. A MEMBER OF THE GROUP HAD PURCHASED AN EXPIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR \$VN10,000 AND WITH THE HELP OF A XEROX AND SOME FORGERY, PRODUCED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. THE TRIP FROM SAIGON TO DANANG TOOK TWO DAYS AND HE WAS CHECKED ABOUT TWENTY TIMES. AT DANANG THE GROUP POOLED THEIR MONEY AND PURCHASED THE JUNK FOR 6.5 MILLION PIASTERS. THEY DEPARTED DANANG AT 3A.M. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO COMMUNIST PATROLS AND THEY SAILED DIRECTLY FOR HONG KONG.

3. RE-EDUCATION: SOURCE CLAIMED THAT PERSONNEL WHO WORKED FOR RVNAF, THE NATIONAL POLICE OR THE US MISSION WERE SENT OFF "TO RE-EDUCATION". (COMMENT: AS THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME CONGEN OFFICER HAD HEARD OF MISSION PERSONNEL BEING SENT OFF TO RE-EDUCATION, THIS POINT WAS CAREFULLY EXAMINED. WHILE HE COULD NOT PROVIDE ANY NAMES, SOURCE INSISTED THAT PEOPLE

EMPLOYED BY EMBASSY SAIGON WERE SENT AWAY* END COMMENT) HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER, WHO WAS A FIRST LIEUTENANT IN THE NATIONAL POLICE IN THU DUC, DEPARTED FOR RE-EDUCATION ON JUNE 12 AND THAT HIS BODY WAS LATER RETURNED WITH AN OFFICIAL EXPLANATION THAT HE HAD BEEN "KILLED BY A BOMB IN A FIELD." SOURCE CLAIMED THAT THE BODIES OF MANY PERSONS IN HIS BROTHER'S

GROUP WERE SIMILARLY RETURNED.

4. THE RESISTANCE: SOURCE REPORTED HEARING OF CONTINUED FIGHTING IN TAY NINH, BAC LIEU, LONG KHANH, CAN THO, CA MAU (AN XUYEN) AND HO NAI (BIEN HOA) BUT DID NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS. NAMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT WERE GEN CHENG DINH QUAY, BG LE MINH DAO (OF THE 18TH ARVN DIV.), LTG NGO QUANG TRUONG AND MG BUI THE LAN. (COMMENT: CON GEN OFFICER PREVIOUSLY HEARD RUMORS THAT DAO WAS CAPTURED. ONE LOCAL JOURNALIST REPORTED LATER SEEING DAO IN SAIGON. AT THE TIME OF THE FALL DAO WAS SUFFERING FROM A SERIOUS CONFIDENTIAL

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MEDICAL PROBLEM. A JOURNALIST HAS REPORTED THAT TRUONG WAS MENTIONED ON THE RESISTANCE RADIO. THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY TRUONG AND PERHAPS LAN ARE MENTIONED AS RESISTANCE

LEADERS EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE IN THE US. END COMMENT.)

5. SOURCE REPORTED THAT HE HAD HEARD A RESISTANCE RADIO WAS BROADCASTING ON THE 31 METER BAND FROM 0100 TO 0400 BUT

HE HAD NEVER LISTENED TO IT. THE RADIO REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO FIGHT THE COMMUNISTS AND TO GO WEST, TO THE FORESTS AND THE MOUNTAINS TO JOIN THE RESISTANCE.

6. SOURCE RELATED THAT ON MAY 16 HE WAS IN VUNG TAU AND PERSONALLY SAW THE BODIES OF THREE NVA SOLDIERS WHO WERE ALLEGEDLY KILLED WHILE SLEEPING WITH THREE PROSTITUTES IN THE HOTEL TIN NHA. HE REPORTED THAT WHILE SITTING IN A COFFEE SHOP IN SAIGON AT ABOUT 1700 ON JULY 8, HE WITNESSED A MOTORCYCLIST RIDE BY AND TOSS A GRENADE INTO A NEARBY CAFE FULL OF NVA TROOPS, KILLING OR WOUNDING ABOUT 25 SOLDIERS. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT HIS GIRLFRIEND SAW THE BODIES OF SOME NVA SOLDIERS HANGING FROM POWER-LINE POLES IN BIEN HOA.

7. COMMENT: VNA REPORTS HAVE FREQUENTLY CARRIED ITEMS ON AREAS BEING CLEARED OF BOMBS AND MINES AND PUT BACK UNDER CULTIVATION. IT SEEMS VERY PLAUSIBLE THAT SOME PERSONNEL UNDERGOING "RE-EDUCATION" ARE BEING EMPLOYED IN THIS WAY. THE ABOVE CITED DEATH OF THE POLICE LIEUTENANT WOULD CERTAINLY SUGGEST THIS. END COMMENT
CROSS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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